

Dear FCC,

I have been an Amateur Radio Operator for nearly two years now. I have passed the General Class Exam. I have taken the Morse Proficiency Examination on three occasions now and have not been successful in being able to pass. As a Military Retiree, this is disheartening. My communications on HF with the Military was of both for Search and Rescue and Maritime Narcotics Interdiction, which also includes many High Frequency Data Link Messages. I am now a volunteer Amateur Radio Operator with the Galveston County Office of Emergency Management in Galveston County Texas. The club call sign attached to this office is held by an Extra Class Operator. During an Emergency Event I must wait until a General Class Operator arrives to be a Control Operator before my being able to participate on any nets on 30 Megahertz and below.

I have personally observed Technician Classed Radio Operators participate on HF nets under Control Operators for the past 1.5 years and feel that these folks conduct themselves somewhat better than Hams who have the ability to use Morse at 20+ WPM and are Extra Class Operators. While I am at the HF station here at the Emergency Operations Center, I hold myself to very high standards as far as protocol, being considerate and respectful of other stations and always willing to yield for other traffic.

I am in favor of dropping the Morse Proficiency Examination for access to the Amateur Radio Bands below 30 Mhz, but at the same time do not disagree with retaining the same examination for those individuals who want to have it attached to the Extra Class Exam. Let's let the individuals who have Technician licenses use a small portion of the HF bands, and increase the privileges of those who pass the General Class Exam as what currently stands. I encourage adding HF questions to the Technician Examination as a primer, but nothing too tough so as the younger generation can comprehend.

I thank you for the time you are taking to read input from the public as sometimes there is a perception that we as a people are ignored and our voice is tuned out. Thanks again.

Best Regards,
Mike Kitchen
KD5PXH

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